

1-2 SAMUEL: THE RULE OF A POLITICIAN

Faith In Real Life **1 Samuel 13-14**

1. When do you typically arrive for an appointment - early, late, or just in time?

2. What does 1 Samuel 13-14 help you understand about God? How does it exalt Jesus?

3. Read 1 Sam 13.8-14. How do Saul's reasons for deciding to handle the sacrifices himself sound to you? How did they sound to Samuel? What does this tell you about Samuel's authority and his role? What happened as a result of Saul's disobedience? How do you feel about the judgment against Saul?

4. When have you taken matters into your own hands when you should have waited to hear from God? How did it turn out?

5. Review the battle stories of 1 Sam 14, especially v24-46. Why did Saul make his men take an oath not to eat during this battle? What does it say about Saul that he had never built an altar to the Lord in v35? Why do you suppose God refuses to answer Saul in v37? Why does Saul make the vow of v39? What do all of these things reveal about Saul?

6. In what ways are you, like Saul, impulsive and uncertain in your words?

7. Saul used sacrifice as a way to achieve his purposes and carelessly manipulated the holy things of God. Have you ever manipulated the things of God for your own ends? How have you done that? Why?

8. Saul was, in many ways, a false leader. He drew the people of God away from following their Lord. Have you ever committed this same sin? Are you doing so in any way now?

9. Out of everything we talked about from God's Word today, what did the Holy Spirit use to speak to you most clearly? Now that He's shown you that, what are you going to do about it?